

OCT 18 2006

Patent
2021906-7001772001
(21906-702)REMARKS

Claims 16, 21, 32, and 37 have been rewritten in independent form. Amendments to claims 15, 17-19, 22, 26, 29-31, 33-35, and 42-44 are to change claim dependencies. No new matter has been added.

I. Allowed and allowable claims

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-5 and 7-13.

Claims 16, 21, 23-25, 32, and 37-41 stand objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 16, 21, 32, and 37 have been written in independent form. As such, these claims, and their respective dependent claims, are believed allowable.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 27 stand objected to because the amendment filed on 6/9/06 shows that claim 27 is pending when claim 27 has been canceled. Applicant hereby confirms that claim 27 has been canceled, and the listing of the claim has been corrected to reflect the status of claim 27.

III. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14, 15, 17-20, 22, 26, 28-31, 33-36, and 42-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,308,220 (Mathur). Without acquiescence to the basis of the claim rejection, claims 14, 20, 28, and 36 have been canceled without prejudice.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all remaining claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, please contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge and fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 2021906-7001772001. The Commissioner is also authorized to credit any overpayment or to charge any underpayment to Bingham McCutchen's Deposit Account No. 50-2518, referencing billing number 2021906-7001772001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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